

Serial No.: 09/832,214
Rutan Docket No. 019502 0014US2

CLEAN COPY OF THE PENDING CLAIMS

1. (Amended) A utility knife tool comprising:
 - a) a handle with a handle distal portion, wherein the handle further comprises a hand operable arm structure that further comprises an arm distal portion having a second engagement element and wherein the arm structure and the handle are fabricated from the same piece of material;
 - b) a blade secured to and extending from said handle distal portion;
 - c) an integral, movable blade cover for enshrouding the blade when the tool is not in use and exposing the blade during use;
 - d) a blade-cover biasing member for urging the blade cover to a position covering the blade; and
 - e) a blade-cover locking system comprising a cover-lock member with a first engagement element and the arm structure having the second engagement element wherein the engagement elements are cooperatively engageable with each other whereby engagement of said elements with each other maintains the blade cover in a locked mode covering the blade and disengagement with each other releases the blade cover from said locked mode.
2. A utility knife as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the blade cover generally enshrouds the blade as a cap structure over said blade.
3. A utility knife as claimed in Claim 2 wherein the cap structure has a floor with a slot through which the blade is exposed.
4. A utility knife as claimed in Claim 3 wherein the cap structure is arcuately movable and arcuately shaped.

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5. A utility knife as claimed in Claim 3 wherein the cap structure is substantially transparent.
6. (Amended) A utility knife as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the blade-cover biasing member is a spring.
7. A utility knife as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the cover-lock member is a wall of the blade cover and the first engagement element is a notch disposed in said wall, and wherein the hand-operable cover-release member is an outwardly biased arm structure disposed along the handle and the second engagement element is a distal end of the arm structure situated in the notch when the first and second engagement elements are engaged.
8. A utility knife as claimed in Claim 7 wherein the blade cover is generally arcuately movable and arcuately shaped and wherein the wall of the blade cover is an inside peripheral wall accessible by the arm structure through a rear opening into the blade cover.